(b) The National Integration Council has been convened to meet on 12th September, 1986 to discuss the former Prime Minister's programme for Welfare of Minorities. No date for a meeting of the Standing Committee has yet been fixed.

(c) The Central Government is in constant touch with the State Governments concerned to ensure that there is communal harmony in these States.

Delay in completion of projects

1041. SHRI CHITTA BASU:
SHRI RAMKRISHNA MAZUMDER:

Will the Minister of PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of projects in different States are lagging behind schedule;

(b) if so, what are the names of such projects;

(c) what are the reasons for delay;

(d) what is the amount of cost escalation due to delay; and

(e) what steps have been taken to expedite completion thereof and what is the rescheduled time of their completion?

THE MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHOUDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The list is enclosed. (*See* Appendix CXXXIX, Annexure No. 61).

(c) The reasons for delay of the projects include the problems concerning acquisition of land, critical equipment and material supplies by the suppliers (imported as well as indigenous), finalisation of detailed engineering drawings, lack of infrastructural facilities and services, law & order disturbances, mis-matching progress of vendors, suppliers, change in scope, inadequate allocation of funds, inefficient working of contractors, labour problems, etc.

(d) There are various reasons for overall cost escalation of projects. It is not possible to identify the reason(s) of cost escalation due to delay alone.

(e) The following steps are being taken to expedite the implementation of these projects:

(i) Preparation of realistic project implementation plants.

(ii) Effective monitoring through Monthly Flash Report and Quarterly Status Report Monitoring System.

(iii) Constant pressure on project authorities for expeditious completion.

(iv) Inter-Ministerial coordination and inter-action.

(v) Close follow-up by concerned Ministries and project authorities with State Governments, equipment suppliers, Consultants and other concerned agencies to minimise delays.

The rescheduled time of completion of these projects is indicated in the list referred to in part (b) of the answer.

Deal for advanced jet trainer aircraft

1042. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:
SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:

Will the PRIME MIISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a deal for the purchase of modern advanced jet trainer aircraft for the Indian Air Force has been finalised by Government with any foreign country;

(b) if so, what is the name of that country;

(c) what are the terms of the agreement; and

(d) what is the amount of foreign exchange involved in this deal?